

## An Update on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

**Aloha!** Welcome to this year's first edition of our newsletter updating you on Honolulu's High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. The planning process is underway to find a transit solution that truly meets the needs of Honolulu's residents. It is vital that people are kept **informed** and **involved**, as we seek solutions to this crucial quality of life issue.

Every month, this newsletter will report on project developments and include topics such as the proposed alternatives, ridership studies, environmental studies and cost analyses. The City Council will choose the best alternative by the end of the year, and has requested an Alternatives Analysis by November 2006. The City Council will review the information, ask the people of Honolulu to voice their opinions, and then, select a locally preferred alternative that best serves our City.

Step One:

### December Public Scoping Meetings – A Success!



The process of gathering public and governmental agency input about what should be addressed in the study is now complete. Mahalo to all who took the time to attend the public scoping meetings, comment on the proposed transit alternatives and share what type of additional information they would be looking for throughout the planning process. More than 500 people attended the meetings. Close to 600 comments were collected during the meetings, from the project website, and via e-mail. This was an important first step in the planning process.

While we received many comments in support of one transit alternative or another, it is too early to select an alternative. Once all the technical information, such as estimated cost and ridership is available, the public will be asked to comment on specific alternatives.

A report will be issued presenting the alternatives that will be studied and information about how these alternatives were selected. A complete scoping report, which includes all comments received during the scoping process, will also be issued. While this newsletter previews the comments, you will be able to download all comments and the entire scoping report by visiting the project website at [www.honolulustransit.org](http://www.honolulustransit.org).

### What Did Honolulu's Residents Have to Say?

There were many comments regarding the project's purpose and need. They ranged from expanding the study corridor to relieving traffic congestion as a project goal and ensuring that both existing and future development patterns are taken into consideration while planning.

Several comments were received on the specific alternatives presented. Some suggested additional non-transit projects, such as arterial and highway improvements and more bicycle lanes.

Others requested policy changes such as requiring driver education, limiting car ownership, changing development patterns through tax incentives, restricting parking, mandating carpooling, and limiting the number of people living on Oahu. Other comments addressed bus operations.



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## Contact Us

Comments and suggestions on future newsletter topics are welcome. Please call the project hotline at **566-2299** or submit your comments via the website at [www.honolulustransit.org](http://www.honolulustransit.org).

If you would prefer not to receive this update or wish to receive an email version, simply indicate so by calling the project hotline or visiting the website and clicking on "Contact Us."

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Newsletter of Dept. of Transportation Services  
City and County of Honolulu  
650 South King St. 3rd floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### *Ask the Expert*

#### Q: “*Will mass transit eliminate traffic congestion?*”

By 2030, nearly 70% of the people on Oahu will live along the corridor that stretches between Kapolei and Waikiki and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Eighty percent of the people will work within this area. Because so much more traffic is expected to be added as a result of the growth, the alternatives are being developed to reduce the level of congestion and the rate of its growth, but it is not likely any alternative will eliminate traffic congestion.

## Did you know?

- The land area of the Ewa plain on West Oahu can contain the entire urban Honolulu area (Airport to UH Manoa).
- By 2030, the population in West Oahu will triple and the average commute time into town will double.\*
- Riding rail transit is between 2 and 6 times safer than driving an automobile.\*\*

\* Source: OMPO Analysis of Baseline Conditions for the 2030 Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (2005)

\*\* Transportation Research Record Number 1623.



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It was suggested that the proposed managed lanes alternative be operated as a reversible 2-lane roadway. Several people proposed segments of fixed guideway alignments and potential station locations. Questions were raised about whether the fixed guideway alternative would be elevated, at grade, or underground, how the system would connect with feeder buses, bicycle lanes, and park and ride lots, and what fares would be and how frequently this type of transit would run.

No comments identified issues that would make any of the proposed alternatives impractical. Several topics, ranging from energy consumption to views of and from elevated facilities were identified as needing evaluation.

### **What's next?**

The final alternatives will be evaluated in an Alternatives

Analysis with a detailed technical analysis conducted for each of the proposed alternatives. This study will be conducted over the next nine months. Information to help the City Council choose among transit alternatives will include cost estimates, revenue estimates, transportation benefits, and environmental, social and economic effects.

### **How to stay informed**

In addition to this newsletter, a project hotline is available where you can leave messages or ask to have a question answered. The project website [www.honolulustransit.org](http://www.honolulustransit.org) will be updated regularly and will provide an array of information. The local media will be asked to provide information to the public at various milestones along the way. Finally, transit team members are available to speak to community groups. Call the project hotline at **566-2299** to request a presentation.